IN THE CLAIMS:

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- (Original) An optical fiber holder comprising: a tubular member for fitting over 1. an optical fiber bundle comprising a bundle of plural optical fibers to prevent the optical fibers from separating from each other; and a pressing structure for exerting a pressing force on the 4 optical fiber bundle in a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the optical fiber bundle to press the optical fiber bundle against an inner periphery of the tubular member. 5
 - 2. (Original) The optical fiber holder in accordance with claim 1, wherein the pressing structure comprises an aperture extending through a peripheral wall of the tubular member from an outer periphery of the tubular member to the inner periphery of the tubular. member, and a pressing member for exerting the pressing force on the optical fiber bundle through the aperture.
 - (Original) The optical fiber holder in accordance with claim 1, wherein the 3. pressing structure is spaced a predetermined distance apart from a leading edge of the optical fiber bundle in the longitudinal direction.
- (Original) The optical fiber holder in accordance with claim 1, wherein the 1 4. pressing structure is located inwardly of the outer periphery of the tubular member. 2
 - (Original) The optical fiber holder in accordance with claim 1, wherein the inner 5. periphery of the tubular member comprises a holding portion having a diameter capable of holding the optical fiber bundle relatively tightly, and a larger-diameter portion located closer to a leading edge of the optical fiber bundle than the holding portion and having a larger diameter

- than the holding portion, the larger-diameter portion being configured to fit around a fused leading end portion of the optical fiber bundle inserted through the tubular member.
 - 6. (Original) An optical fiber holder comprising a tubular member for fitting over an optical fiber bundle comprising a bundle of plural optical fibers to prevent the optical fibers from separating from each other, the tubular member defining an aperture extending through a peripheral wall of the tubular member from an outer periphery to an inner periphery of the tubular member.
 - 7. (Original) An optical fiber holder comprising a tubular member for fitting over an optical fiber bundle comprising a bundle of plural optical fibers to prevent the optical fibers from separating from each other, wherein: the tubular member has an inner periphery comprising a holding portion having a diameter capable of holding the optical fiber bundle relatively tightly, and a larger-diameter portion located closer to a leading edge of the optical fiber bundle than the holding portion and having a larger diameter than the holding portion; and the larger-diameter portion is shaped such that planes tangential to respective of predetermined two points on the larger-diameter portion contain respective opposite components that are symmetric with respect to an axis along which the optical fiber bundle extends through the tubular member.
 - 8. (Currently Amended) A method of holding an optical fiber bundle, comprising the steps of: inserting the optical fiber bundle comprising a bundle of plural optical fibers through a tubular member having an aperture extending through a peripheral wall thereof from an outer periphery to an outer periphery of the tubular member; injecting a predetermined amount of adhesive into the optical fiber bundle through the aperture to fix and hold the optical fibers relatively tightly.

1	9. (Previously Presented) An optical fiber bundle holder comprising:
2	a connector unit having a bore extending there through;
3	a tubular member of a dimension to be received within the connector unit bore,
4	the tubular member has a conduit for receiving an optical fiber bundle;
5	a pressing member for exerting a compressive force on the optical fiber bundle,
6	the tubular member having an opening communicating with the bore for accommodating a
7	contact of the pressing member with the optical fiber bundle; and
8	a member for securing the tubular member within the connector unit wherein the
9	pressing member exerts a compressive force traverse to a longitudinal direction of the optical
10	fiber bundle for restraining relative movement of the optical fiber bundle.
1	10. (Previously Presented) The optical fiber bundle holder of Claim 9 wherein the
2	pressing member is a resilient band member.
1	11. (Previously Presented) The optical fiber bundle holder of Claim 9 wherein the
2	pressing member includes a semi-cylindrical member and setscrew extending through the
3	connector unit for applying pressure on the semi-cylindrical member.

	12. (New) An optical fiber holder assembly comprising:
2	a connector body having a first bore extending therethrough;
3	a tubular member having a second bore extending therethrough, the tubular
4	member has an opening transverse to an axis of the second bore and extending through to the
5	second bore;
6	a first fastener on the connector body for engaging a first optical fiber bundle
7	mounted in the first bore;
8	a second fastener on the connector body for engaging the tubular member
9	whereby a communicating alignment can be held between the first optical fiber bundle mounted
10	in the first bore and a second optical fiber bundle mounted in the tubular member; and
11	holding means inserted within the transverse opening for holding the second
12	optical fiber bundle relative to the tubular member.
1	13. (New) The optical fiber holder assembly of Claim 12 wherein the first bore is
2	larger than an outer circumference of the tubular member.
1	14. (New) The optical fiber holder assembly of Claim 13 wherein the holding means
2	is a fluid adhesive.
1	15 (Marri) The entired tiles helder eggenbly of Claim 12 sylvenin the helding manner
1	15. (New) The optical fiber holder assembly of Claim 13 wherein the holding means
1 2	is a flexible elastic band that is dimensioned to be in a state of tension when encircling the

- 1 16. (New) The optical fiber holder assembly of Claim 12 wherein an entrance
- 2 opening of the tubular second bore is surrounded by a beveled surface on the tubular member.
- 1 17. (New) The optical fiber holder assembly of Claim 12 wherein the tubular
- 2 member is bifurcated with a front tubular part and a rear tubular part.